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Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Environment and sustainable development

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 19 February 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Moscow declaration of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated 6 February 2004, adopted during the official visit to the Russian Federation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, in February 2004 (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 59, 60, 94, 109 and 156 of the fifty-eighth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Moscow Declaration by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Moscow, the Kremlin, 6 February 2004

The President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, having considered, during the official visit by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation, the state of and prospects for bilateral relations and also regional and global problems of mutual interest, proceeding from the traditional desire of the Russian and Azerbaijani peoples for closer mutual ties, on the basis of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security, of 3 July 1997, the Baku Declaration of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan of 9 January 2001 and the Joint Statement by the President of the Russian Federation, V. V. Putin, and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, G. A. Aliev, of 25 January 2002, which established the bases for the Russian-Azerbaijani strategic partnership, expressing their readiness to give further impetus to the development of friendly relations on the basis of all-round cooperation, mutual trust and respect for one another's interests, aware of the fact that the further expansion and deepening of Russian-Azerbaijani relations will serve to strengthen peace and stability in the region, expressing particular concern that the conflicts in the region, which create obstacles to the normal development of countries and their large-scale economic and other cooperation, have not been resolved confirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the generally recognized norms of international law, including respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and sovereign equality of States, the non-use of force or the threat of its use, taking into account the positive results achieved in establishing democratic institutions, civil society and a market economy in the two States, and convinced of the irreversibility of these processes, hereby declare:

I

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will continue the intensive development of political contacts and strengthen relations under the strategic partnership.

The parties note the special role of the regular Russian-Azerbaijani political dialogue at the highest level, which imparts dynamism and constructive purposefulness to bilateral relations.

The parties attach importance to expanding bilateral contacts at all other levels, carrying out reciprocal visits, developing the practice of bilateral foreign-policy and other consultations between the legislative and executive authorities of the two countries, and exchanging experience in the field of legislative activity.

The expanding treaty and legal basis serves as a reliable foundation for ensuring the all-round development of relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan. The parties will enhance the effectiveness of bilateral

and multilateral cooperation in order to counteract new global challenges and threats, first of all, international terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and the illegal weapons trade.

The parties will develop cooperation with regard to borders and take measures to suppress activities in their territories by organizations, groups and individuals directed against each other's State sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Active work will be continued in completing the delimitation of the State border between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will strengthen bilateral military and military-technical cooperation, which is in keeping with the interests of ensuring the security of the two countries is not directed against third countries, and does not run counter to the international obligations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Neither party will participate in any actions or measures of a military, economic or financial nature, inter alia, through third countries, directed against the other party, and will not allow its territory to be used for the purposes of aggression or other forcible action against the other party.

II

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will take additional measures to ensure that the level of trade and economic as well as scientific and technical cooperation between the two States is more fully in keeping with the potential and possibilities for their dynamically expanding market economies.

The parties will:

Encourage the dynamic activity of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan as a permanently functioning body, playing an important role in the overall and competent consideration of issues relating to the development of bilateral economic cooperation;

Involve in the operational work of Intergovernmental Commission institutes and organizations of the two States in the fields of business and science and promote the establishment of a Russian-Azerbaijani business forum;

Promote the expansion of reciprocal trade, inter alia, by removing obstacles impeding its growth, as well as cooperation in financing and ensuring commercial transactions and regulating customs procedures, etc.;

Strive to promote broad cooperation in the various branches of the economy, particularly, in the fuel and energy sector, non-ferrous metallurgy, chemical and light industries, and in the fields of mechanical engineering, the agricultural and industrial complex, transport and the transport infrastructure;

Promote the development of cooperation between financial and banking structures, the opening of their offices in their territories of the two States, the implementation of joint investment projects, and the formation of joint financial and industrial groups, enterprises and other organizational and managerial structures in accordance with new international standards and economic realities;

Encourage the development of direct links between entities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan and their managerial structures;

Promote effective cooperation in implementing transport and communications projects;

Increase cooperation with regard to problems relating to environmental protection at the bilateral, regional and global levels;

Accord particular attention to the ongoing improvement of the treaty and legal basis for their economic relations.

The parties note the positive role of the large-scale cooperation that is being carried out in the power industry for the economic development of the two countries and confirm their interest in continuing joint efforts in this area.

The parties confirm their interest in long-term bilateral cooperation on a legal basis with regard to the transit of Azerbaijani petroleum through the territory of the Russian Federation and the supply of natural gas from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Russian Federation will provide support to the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to Azerbaijan's accession to the Agreement on the North-South Transport Corridor.

III

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan affirm that the development of contacts and cooperation in the humanitarian field between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan has a firm and objective basis, taking into account the historic and cultural closeness of the peoples of the two countries, and the sizeable Russian and Azerbaijani diaspora, respectively, in Azerbaijan and in the Russian Federation. These ties will serve to stimulate the entire range of inter-State relations.

The parties will promote the expansion and enhancement of the treaty and legal basis for humanitarian and information-related cooperation and interaction in the areas of culture, science, education, health care and social security. Such cooperation will be supported by the State agencies of the two countries; it requires corresponding attention on the part of business circles as well.

The parties will:

Promote the development of contacts in the humanitarian field by expanding youth and student exchanges and ties between the mass media;

Cooperate in the area of national education systems through the development of joint programmes for pupils and students, the preparation and retraining of specialists, and the exchange of training programmes;

Promote the study on a reciprocal basis of the Russian and Azerbaijani languages and the dissemination of literature as well as the development of contacts between persons active in the fields of science, literature and art;

Help to ensure favourable conditions for maintaining and developing the unique ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of national minorities;

Create the necessary conditions for putting into operation a Russian cultural centre in Baku and an Azerbaijani cultural centre in Moscow, provide all-round support to the activities of the Baku Slavic University and promote the holding of events celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Victory over Fascism and support the veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

The dates and procedure for holding the Year of Russia in Azerbaijan and the Year of Azerbaijan in the Russian Federation will be determined.

The parties note with satisfaction the establishment of favourable conditions for Russians residing in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis residing in the Russian Federation and point to a special role played by the two communities in bringing the peoples of the two friendly countries closer together.

The President of the Russian Federation gave a positive assessment to measures in support of the Russian language in the Republic of Azerbaijan. In turn, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan noted with satisfaction the attention accorded by the Russian party to the needs of the Azerbaijani diaspora in the Russian Federation.

IV

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will take all necessary steps to ensure security and settle the conflicts in the Caucasus and create conditions for the region's stable development.

They advocate the holding of regular meetings between leaders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia and the Russian Federation in order to discuss regional issues.

The parties are, as in the past, united in the conviction that the States of the region themselves play the principal role in determining approaches to ensuring security and developing cooperation in the Caucasus.

The parties note the exceptional importance of establishing mutual trust between the States of the Caucasus based on respect for and observance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of each other's internationally recognized borders.

On this basis, the parties confirm the need for a speedy settlement of existing conflicts in order to ensure reliable security and bring about multilateral cooperation in the region.

In this context, the parties express their firm support for a peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and the implementation of the corresponding United Nations Security Council resolutions and decisions by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Russian Federation welcomes the direct dialogue at the highest level between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia aimed at bringing about a speedy, peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The Republic of Azerbaijan notes the importance of further efforts by the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, including the Russian Federation, in promoting a speedy peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The parties declare their readiness to promote in every way the speedy and safe return to their homes of refugees and persons displaced as a result of the conflicts in the Caucasus.

V

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will do their utmost to help ensure that the Caspian region is a zone of peace, stability, good-neighbourliness and cooperation.

The parties attach exceptional importance to the signing in recent years of bilateral and multilateral agreements to delimit the Caspian seabed for exploiting the mineral wealth between the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, including the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Delimitation of Adjacent Areas on the Caspian Seabed of 23 September 2002 and the Agreement on the Convergence Point of the Delimitation Lines of Adjacent Areas of the Caspian Seabed between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan of 14 May 2003, consider that these agreements make a fundamental contribution to the definition of the new legal status of the Caspian Sea and are in favour of continuing joint efforts in this area. Cooperation in the elaboration and speedy conclusion of a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea and gradual progress towards a consensus-based solution to the problem of its status with the settlement, first and foremost, of the issues of exploitation of mineral resources, the environment, fishing and navigation, will be continued. In this connection, the parties give a positive assessment to the activities of the special working group at the level of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Caspian States.

The parties welcome the signing of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea by all the Caspian States in November 2003 in Tehran.

In accordance with the Ashkhabad agreement by the Presidents of the Caspian States to hold their meetings on a regular basis, the parties consider it necessary to undertake preparations for a second Caspian summit and, to this end, to hold a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Caspian States.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan will continue close cooperation in the world arena in the interests of strengthening the international political, economic and legal order based on the sovereign equality of all States, territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs, the inadmissibility of the use of force or the threat of its use, and other generally recognized norms of international law.

The parties will, with all the means at their disposal, promote the strengthening of the central role of the United Nations as the sole universal mechanism for the maintenance of peace and security in a multi-polar world and enhancing the integrity, efficacy and effectiveness of the Organization. The parties are prepared to promote actively the expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous multilateral cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and to enhance its effectiveness as an instrument for dealing with urgent general problems and tasks confronting the States members.

The parties confirm that strengthening cooperation within CIS is in keeping with their national interests and is in accordance with general world trends.

The parties confirm their determination to increase constructive cooperation within the framework of global and regional organizations and forums.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan express the conviction that this declaration will lend further impetus to the Russian-Azerbaijani strategic partnership and will promote the development of positive regional and global trends.

Done in Moscow on 6 February 2004 in two authentic copies in the Russian and Azerbaijani languages.

The President of the Russian Federation
V. Putin

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
I. Aliev